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(54) Title: NEUROPROTECTANT METHODS, COMPOSITIONS, AND SCREENING METHODS

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates in general to methods of protecting a mammalian nervous system cell from damage, and to methods of treating or ameliorating neurodegenerative diseases. The invention further relates to screening for protective agents that may alone, or in combination with other neuroprotective agents, aid in protecting cells of the central nervous system from damage attributed to neurotoxic compounds, free radicals, or neurodegenerative disease. The invention further relates to pharmaceutical compositions comprising L-ergothioneine or other newly identified compounds and pharmaceutically acceptable carriers for administration to a mammal in need of neuroprotection.